

Judges – The Distressing Days Of Judges

Wednesday Noon Bible Study

Good Shepherd Baptist Church

Pastor Walter L. Ratcliffe, Senior Pastor

Pastor Henry Wallace, Guest Instructor



Lesson Twenty-Three Know Truth

As begin to study the reign of this judge name Jephthah, we will learn how important it is to know and stand on the truth, which is the Word of God. Study verses like **Numbers 23:19** & **2 Timothy 1:12** & **Philippians 1:6**. These verses, and others, have proven to be a rock in my life.

- Our Lord said in **John 8:32**
- Paul says in **Ephesians 4:15**.

1st Point Face Conflict With “Truth” (11:12-23)

- This is exactly what this judge Jephthah does in his people’s conflict with the Ammonites
- Jephthah **first act** was not to gather his army and immediately go out to battle the Ammonites.
- Jephthah sought first to negotiate for peace.
- Often, we rush into a conflict without first considering a peaceful solution or solutions.
- Jephthah sends messengers to determine why the Ammonites wanted to go to war with Israel (**verse 12**)
- Our Lord taught this truth in **Luke 14:31-32**
- Jephthah **second act** was to address a lie.
- - After hearing what the dispute was about, Jephthah tells the Ammonites that the land that Israel captured didn’t belong to them, but to the Amorites.
- We learn this truth in **verse 21**.
- Jephthah **third act** was to declare that the LORD had given them this land.
- Let’s read verse 23.

2nd Point Remember Who’s Side We Are On (vvs. 27-28)

- The king of the Ammonites wouldn’t receive the truth.
- Saints, we can’t make people receive the truth.
- We can’t expect the wicked to treat us right.
- I’m reminded of what our Lord Jesus said in **Matthew 10:14**.
- Also consider what the Lord told Ezekiel in **Ezekiel 3:17-19**
- All we can do is stand on the truth. The Judge of all the earth will always be on the side of truth.

3rd Point The Empowerment Of Jephthah (v. 29)

- The purpose of the Spirit of the Lord coming on Jephthah was to provide divine enablement in his military leadership against his enemy.
- The presence of the Holy Spirit with Old Testament leaders was primarily for the purpose of accomplishing service for God.

4th Point **The Vow of Jephthah (vvs. 30-31)**

- It was common in those days for people to make vows.
- Jephthah vow was made in anticipation of thanksgiving for divinely provided victory over his enemy.
- While the vow showed Jephthah's zeal and earnestness, it was characterized by rashness.
- We will discover the rashness of this vow later.

5th Point **The Victory of Jephthah (vvs. 32-33)**

- The Scripture describes this victory using very graphic words.
- Words like "**delivered**" and "**smote**" and "**very great slaughter**"
- *God's victories are clear. God's people will know who did it.*
- These words describes the complete and utter destruction of Israel's enemy

6th Point **Careless Speaking Can Often Be Tragic (vvs. 34-40)**

- We can't be sure what Jephthah vow in verses really is saying.
- What we can be sure of is what the Scriptures teach about vows.
- Let's consider what **Numbers 30:2** and **Deuteronomy 23:21** say about vows.
- If an individual makes a vow or pledge, he or she must keep it without equivocation.
- Whatever this vow was, it brought grief and sorrow to both Jephthah and his daughter.
- His daughter would die childless; and Jephthah would have no more descendants.

7th Point **The Cost Of Jealousy (12:1-7)**

- If we think back in our previous lessons, we remember where Gideon dealt with a similar situation in **Judges 8:1-3**.
- This time it's the men from the Tribe of Ephraim, the Ephraimites.
- The Ephraimites were angry with Jephthah because he didn't invite them to come and fight with him against the Ammonites. Note **12:1**
- Jephthah responded by telling them that he had invited them to come and fight, but they didn't respond. (**vvs. 2-3**)
- **This jealousy of the Ephraimites cost them 42,000 lives. (v.6)**
- *This incident reminds us of a quote that is said about sin.*

Sin will take you further than you wanna go
And keep you longer than you wanna stay
And cost you more than you wanna pay